

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

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DENVER/ENGLEWOOD, CO

May 30, 2001

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION
ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGED

Chi-ping Nee
10327 Hitching Post Way
Santee, California 92071

Re: Sony Electronics, Inc.
U.S. Patent Application for:
METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR VARIABLE FRAME SIZE
RADIOLINK PROTOCOL BASED ON CHANNEL CONDITION
ESTIMATION
Serial No: 09/758,484
Filed: January 10, 2001
Your Reference No.: 50P3967
Our Reference No.: 080398.P347

Dear Chi-ping:

We have enclosed a the following documents relating to the above patent application:

- (1) a DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION and
- (2) an ASSIGNMENT.

Please review the enclosed DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY, and ASSIGNMENT. After the documents have been reviewed, and if you agree, please sign and date the DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY and the ASSIGNMENT. Please make sure that your signature exactly matches your name as it is typed. Notarization of the ASSIGNMENT is preferable, but not required.

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

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Please then return the executed (1) DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY and (2) ASSIGNMENT to me using the enclosed self-addressed stamped return envelope by **June 15, 2001**.

Please keep in mind that you have a continuing duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office information you are aware of that is material to patentability. For example, if you are aware of any articles or patents bearing on your invention, please bring them to our attention.

Please give me a call if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Maria E. Sobrino".

Maria E. Sobrino

MES/jkv
Enclosures

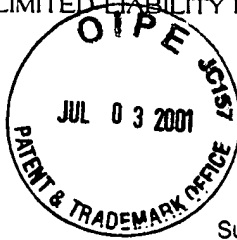
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PORTLAND/LAKE OSWEGO, OR
SEATTLE/KIRKLAND, WA
DENVER/ENGLEWOOD, CO

June 27, 2001

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS
CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION
ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED

Ms. Chi-ping Nee
10327 Hitching Post Way
Santee, CA 92071

Re: Sony Electronics, Inc.
U.S. Patent Application For:
METHOD AND APPARATUS OF VARIABLE FRAME SIZE RADIOLINK
PROTOCOL BASED ON CHANNEL CONDITION ESTIMATION
Filed: January 10, 2001
Serial No.: 09/758,484
Inventor(s): Chan et al.
Sony Ref. No. 50P3967
Our File No.: 80398.P347

Dear Ms. Nee:

On May 30, 2001, we forwarded to you via Certified Return Receipt Mail the DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY and ASSIGNMENT documents for your signature with regard to the above-referenced patent application.

We received your confirmation via your signature on a U.S. Post Office Return Receipt card that you received these documents on June 11, 2001. However, we have not received your signed documents as of this date.

We are therefore again enclosing the DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY and ASSIGNMENT documents for your signature and return.

Please review the enclosed DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY and ASSIGNMENT. After the documents have been reviewed, and you agree, please sign and date the DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY and the ASSIGNMENT. Please make sure that your signature exactly matches your name as it is typed.

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

A LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP INCLUDING LAW CORPORATIONS



Chi-ping Nee
June 27, 2001
Page 2

Please return the executed (1) DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY and (2) ASSIGNMENT to me using the enclosed self-addressed return Federal Express envelope.

Please keep in mind that you have a continuing duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office information you are aware of that is material to patentability. For example, if you are aware of any articles bearing on your invention, please bring them to our attention.

It is our understanding that the invention has not been patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date that we intend to file this application. Please let us know as soon as possible if you believe otherwise.

Please note that this patent application is confidential and this invention is Sony Electronics, Inc. confidential information. As such, please protect against the divulgence of this information to those outside Sony Electronics, Inc.

Please call me if you have any questions about the enclosed documents.
Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Maria E. Sobrino
Maria E. Sobrino

MES/jkv/bks

Enclosures



Attorney's Docket No.: 080398.P347

Patent

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below, next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first, and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR VARIABLE FRAME SIZE RADIOLINK PROTOCOL BASED
ON CHANNEL CONDITION ESTIMATION

the specification of which

 is attached hereto.
 X was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) January 10, 2001 as
United States Application Number 09/758,484
or PCT International Application Number
and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) .
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claim(s), as amended by any amendment referred to above. I do not know and do not believe that the claimed invention was ever known or used in the United States of America before my invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, and that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months (for a utility patent application) or six months (for a design patent application) prior to this application.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d), of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority
Claimed

_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Foreign Filing Date - MM/DD/YYYY)	Yes	No
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Foreign Filing Date - MM/DD/YYYY)	Yes	No
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Foreign Filing Date - MM/DD/YYYY)	Yes	No

I hereby claim the benefit under title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

_____ (Application Number)	_____ (Filing Date – MM/DD/YYYY)
_____ (Application Number)	_____ (Filing Date – MM/DD/YYYY)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

_____ (Application Number)	_____ (Filing Date – MM/DD/YYYY)	_____ (Status -- patented, pending, abandoned)
_____ (Application Number)	_____ (Filing Date – MM/DD/YYYY)	_____ (Status -- patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby appoint the persons listed on Appendix A hereto (which is incorporated by reference and a part of this document) as my respective patent attorneys and patent agents, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith.

Send correspondence to Maria McCormack Sobrino , **BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP**, 12400 Wilshire Boulevard 7th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90025 and direct telephone calls to Maria McCormack Sobrino , (408) 720-8300.
(Name of Attorney or Agent)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of Sole/First Inventor Joseph C. Chan

Inventor's Signature Joseph Chan Date 6/4/01

Residence San Diego, California Citizenship U.S.A.
(City, State) (Country)

Post Office Address 10935 Avenida De Los Lobos, San Diego, California 92127

Full Name of Second/Joint Inventor Chi-ping Nee

Inventor's Signature _____ Date _____

Residence Santee, California Citizenship Taiwan R.O.C.
(City, State) (Country)

Post Office Address 10327 Hitching Post Way, Santee, California 92071

Full Name of Third/Joint Inventor Chinh Tran

Inventor's Signature _____ Date _____

Residence San Diego, California Citizenship U.S.A.
(City, State) (Country)

Post Office Address 14125 Kellbara Court, San Diego, California 92129

Full Name of Fourth/Joint Inventor _____

Inventor's Signature _____ Date _____

Residence _____ Citizenship _____
(City, State) (Country)

Post Office Address _____

APPENDIX A

William E. Alford, Reg. No. 37,764; Farzad E. Amini, Reg. No. 42,261; William Thomas Babbitt, Reg. No. 39,591; Carol F. Barry, Reg. No. 41,600; Jordan Michael Becker, Reg. No. 39,602; Lisa N. Benado, Reg. No. 39,995; Bradley J. Bereznak, Reg. No. 33,474; Michael A. Bernadicou, Reg. No. 35,934; Roger W. Blakely, Jr., Reg. No. 25,831; R. Alan Burnett, Reg. No. 46,149; Gregory D. Caldwell, Reg. No. 39,926; Thomas M. Coester, Reg. No. 39,637; Donna Jo Coningsby, Reg. No. 41,684; Florin Corie, Reg. No. 46,244; Mimi Diemmy Dao, Reg. No. 45,628; Dennis M. deGuzman, Reg. No. 41,702; Stephen M. De Klerk, Reg. No. 46,503; Michael Anthony DeSanctis, Reg. No. 39,957; Daniel M. De Vos, Reg. No. 37,813; Justin M. Dillon, Reg. No. 42,486; Sanjeet Dutta, Reg. No. 46,145; Matthew C. Fagan, Reg. No. 37,542; Tarek N. Fahmi, Reg. No. 41,402; Thomas S. Ferrill, Reg. No. 42,532; George Fountain, Reg. No. 37,374; James Y. Go, Reg. No. 40,621; James A. Henry, Reg. No. 41,064; Libby N. Ho, Reg. No. 46,774; Willmore F. Holbrow III, Reg. No. 41,845; Sheryl Sue Holloway, Reg. No. 37,850; George W. Hoover II, Reg. No. 32,992; Eric S. Hyman, Reg. No. 30,139; William W. Kidd, Reg. No. 31,772; Sang Hui Kim, Reg. No. 40,450; Walter T. Kim, Reg. No. 42,731; Eric T. King, Reg. No. 44,188; George Brian Leavell, Reg. No. 45,436; Kurt P. Leyendecker, Reg. No. 42,799; Gordon R. Lindeen III, Reg. No. 33,192; Jan Carol Little, Reg. No. 41,181; Robert G. Litts, Reg. No. 46,876; Julio Loza, Reg. No. P47,758; Joseph Lutz, Reg. No. 43,765; Michael J. Mallie, Reg. No. 36,591; Andre L. Marais, Reg. No. P048,095; Paul A. Mendonsa, Reg. No. 42,879; Clive D. Menezes, Reg. No. 45,493; Chun M. Ng, Reg. No. 36,878; Thien T. Nguyen, Reg. No. 43,835; Thinh V. Nguyen, Reg. No. 42,034; Robert B. O'Rourke, Reg. No. 46,972; Daniel E. Ovanezian, Reg. No. 41,236; Kenneth B. Paley, Reg. No. 38,989; Gregg A. Peacock, Reg. No. 45,001; Marina Portnova, Reg. No. 45,750; William F. Ryann, Reg. No. 44,313; James H. Salter, Reg. No. 35,668; William W. Schaal, Reg. No. 39,018; James C. Scheller, Reg. No. 31,195; Jeffrey S. Schubert, Reg. No. 43,098; George Simion, Reg. No. P47,089; Maria McCormack Sobrino, Reg. No. 31,639; Stanley W. Sokoloff, Reg. No. 25,128; Judith A. Szepesi, Reg. No. 39,393; Edwin H. Taylor, Reg. No. 25,129; John F. Travis, Reg. No. 43,203; Joseph A. Twarowski, Reg. No. 42,191; Mark C. Van Ness, Reg. No. 39,865; Tom Van Zandt, Reg. No. 43,219; Brent E. Vecchia, Reg. No. P48,011; Lester J. Vincent, Reg. No. 31,460; Archana B. Vittal, Reg. No. 45,182; Glenn E. Von Tersch, Reg. No. 41,364; John Patrick Ward, Reg. No. 40,216; Mark L. Watson, Reg. No. 46,322; Thomas C. Webster, Reg. No. 46,154; and Norman Zafman, Reg. No. 26,250; my patent attorneys, and Firasat Ali, Reg. No. 45,715; and Raul Martinez, Reg. No. 46,904, my patent agents, of BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP, with offices located at 12400 Wilshire Boulevard, 7th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90025, telephone (310) 207-3800, and James R. Thein, Reg. No. 31,710, my patent attorney with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith.

APPENDIX B

Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 Duty to Disclose Information Material to Patentability

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

(1) Prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and

(2) The closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

(b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

(1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or

(2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:

(i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or

(ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

(c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

(1) Each inventor named in the application;

(2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and

(3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.

(d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.

(e) In any continuation-in-part application, the duty under this section includes the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to the person to be material to patentability, as defined in paragraph (b) of this section, which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.



Attorney's Docket No.: 080398.P347

Patent

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below, next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first, and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR VARIABLE FRAME SIZE RADIOLINK PROTOCOL BASED
ON CHANNEL CONDITION ESTIMATION

the specification of which

 is attached hereto.
 X was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) January 10, 2001 as
United States Application Number 09/758,484
or PCT International Application Number
and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) .
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claim(s), as amended by any amendment referred to above. I do not know and do not believe that the claimed invention was ever known or used in the United States of America before my invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, and that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months (for a utility patent application) or six months (for a design patent application) prior to this application.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d), of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority
Claimed

<u>(Number)</u>	<u>(Country)</u>	<u>(Foreign Filing Date - MM/DD/YYYY)</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
<u>(Number)</u>	<u>(Country)</u>	<u>(Foreign Filing Date - MM/DD/YYYY)</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
<u>(Number)</u>	<u>(Country)</u>	<u>(Foreign Filing Date - MM/DD/YYYY)</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>

I hereby claim the benefit under title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

<u>(Application Number)</u>	<u>(Filing Date – MM/DD/YYYY)</u>
<u>(Application Number)</u>	<u>(Filing Date – MM/DD/YYYY)</u>

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

<u>(Application Number)</u>	<u>(Filing Date – MM/DD/YYYY)</u>	<u>(Status -- patented, pending, abandoned)</u>
<u>(Application Number)</u>	<u>(Filing Date – MM/DD/YYYY)</u>	<u>(Status -- patented, pending, abandoned)</u>

I hereby appoint the persons listed on Appendix A hereto (which is incorporated by reference and a part of this document) as my respective patent attorneys and patent agents, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith.

Send correspondence to Maria McCormack Sobrino , BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP, 12400 Wilshire Boulevard 7th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90025 and direct telephone calls to Maria McCormack Sobrino , (408) 720-8300.
(Name of Attorney or Agent)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of Sole/First Inventor Joseph C. Chan

Inventor's Signature _____ Date _____

Residence San Diego, California Citizenship U.S.A.
(City, State) (Country)

Post Office Address 10935 Avenida De Los Lobos, San Diego, California 92127

Full Name of Second/Joint Inventor Chi-ping Nee

Inventor's Signature _____ Date _____

Residence Santee, California Citizenship Taiwan R.O.C.
(City, State) (Country)

Post Office Address 10327 Hitching Post Way, Santee, California 92071

Full Name of Third/Joint Inventor Chinh Tran

Inventor's Signature *Chinh Tran* Date 06/10/01

Residence San Diego, California Citizenship U.S.A.
(City, State) (Country)

Post Office Address 14125 Kellbara Court, San Diego, California 92129

Full Name of Fourth/Joint Inventor _____

Inventor's Signature _____ Date _____

Residence _____ Citizenship _____
(City, State) (Country)

Post Office Address _____

APPENDIX A

William E. Alford, Reg. No. 37,764; Farzad E. Amini, Reg. No. 42,261; William Thomas Babbitt, Reg. No. 39,591; Carol F. Barry, Reg. No. 41,600; Jordan Michael Becker, Reg. No. 39,602; Lisa N. Benado, Reg. No. 39,995; Bradley J. Bereznak, Reg. No. 33,474; Michael A. Bernadicou, Reg. No. 35,934; Roger W. Blakely, Jr., Reg. No. 25,831; R. Alan Burnett, Reg. No. 46,149; Gregory D. Caldwell, Reg. No. 39,926; Thomas M. Coester, Reg. No. 39,637; Donna Jo Coningsby, Reg. No. 41,684; Florin Corie, Reg. No. 46,244; Mimi Diemmy Dao, Reg. No. 45,628; Dennis M. deGuzman, Reg. No. 41,702; Stephen M. De Klerk, Reg. No. 46,503; Michael Anthony DeSanctis, Reg. No. 39,957; Daniel M. De Vos, Reg. No. 37,813; Justin M. Dillon, Reg. No. 42,486; Sanjeet Dutta, Reg. No. 46,145; Matthew C. Fagan, Reg. No. 37,542; Tarek N. Fahmi, Reg. No. 41,402; Thomas S. Ferrill, Reg. No. 42,532; George Fountain, Reg. No. 37,374; James Y. Go, Reg. No. 40,621; James A. Henry, Reg. No. 41,064; Libby N. Ho, Reg. No. 46,774; Willmore F. Holbrow III, Reg. No. 41,845; Sheryl Sue Holloway, Reg. No. 37,850; George W. Hoover II, Reg. No. 32,992; Eric S. Hyman, Reg. No. 30,139; William W. Kidd, Reg. No. 31,772; Sang Hui Kim, Reg. No. 40,450; Walter T. Kim, Reg. No. 42,731; Eric T. King, Reg. No. 44,188; George Brian Leavell, Reg. No. 45,436; Kurt P. Leyendecker, Reg. No. 42,799; Gordon R. Lindeen III, Reg. No. 33,192; Jan Carol Little, Reg. No. 41,181; Robert G. Litts, Reg. No. 46,876; Julio Loza, Reg. No. P47,758; Joseph Lutz, Reg. No. 43,765; Michael J. Mallie, Reg. No. 36,591; Andre L. Marais, Reg. No. P048,095; Paul A. Mendonsa, Reg. No. 42,879; Clive D. Menezes, Reg. No. 45,493; Chun M. Ng, Reg. No. 36,878; Thien T. Nguyen, Reg. No. 43,835; Thinh V. Nguyen, Reg. No. 42,034; Robert B. O'Rourke, Reg. No. 46,972; Daniel E. Ovanezian, Reg. No. 41,236; Kenneth B. Paley, Reg. No. 38,989; Gregg A. Peacock, Reg. No. 45,001; Marina Portnova, Reg. No. 45,750; William F. Ryann, Reg. No. 44,313; James H. Salter, Reg. No. 35,668; William W. Schaal, Reg. No. 39,018; James C. Scheller, Reg. No. 31,195; Jeffrey S. Schubert, Reg. No. 43,098; George Simion, Reg. No. P47,089; Maria McCormack Sobrino, Reg. No. 31,639; Stanley W. Sokoloff, Reg. No. 25,128; Judith A. Szepesi, Reg. No. 39,393; Edwin H. Taylor, Reg. No. 25,129; John F. Travis, Reg. No. 43,203; Joseph A. Twarowski, Reg. No. 42,191; Mark C. Van Ness, Reg. No. 39,865; Tom Van Zandt, Reg. No. 43,219; Brent E. Vecchia, Reg. No. P48,011; Lester J. Vincent, Reg. No. 31,460; Archana B. Vittal, Reg. No. 45,182; Glenn E. Von Tersch, Reg. No. 41,364; John Patrick Ward, Reg. No. 40,216; Mark L. Watson, Reg. No. 46,322; Thomas C. Webster, Reg. No. 46,154; and Norman Zafman, Reg. No. 26,250; my patent attorneys, and Firasat Ali, Reg. No. 45,715; and Raul Martinez, Reg. No. 46,904, my patent agents, of BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP, with offices located at 12400 Wilshire Boulevard, 7th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90025, telephone (310) 207-3800, and James R. Thein, Reg. No. 31,710, my patent attorney with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith.

APPENDIX B

Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 Duty to Disclose Information Material to Patentability

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

(1) Prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and

(2) The closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

(b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

(1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or

(2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:

(i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or

(ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

(c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

(1) Each inventor named in the application;

(2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and

(3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.

(d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.

(e) In any continuation-in-part application, the duty under this section includes the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to the person to be material to patentability, as defined in paragraph (b) of this section, which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.